

for quashing the continued suspension order. The HOBTJI* High Court, at admission stage of this Writ Petition on 16.12.#7 did not quash the continued suspension order and advised that inquiry should be completed expeditiously.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The company is making profits continuously since last three years.

(d) and (e) Since the inquiry in the case stand completed, the Inquiry Officer has submitted his Inquiry Report on 14.09.98 holding the charges proved against the officer under suspension. The officer himself filed a Writ Petition with Hobble High Court of Madras on 22.10.98 and obtained a stay order against further proceeding in his case. Since the case is subjudice further action can be taken only after stay is vacated.

Concessions in Telephone Registrations, rent and call charges

† 3136. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government have formulated a scheme wherein telephone registration fees, telephone call charges and the rent have been planned to be brought down;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to improve telephone services in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, tariff of telephone services is now under the purview of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) by virtue of TRAI Act, 1997.

With in the parameters defined by TRAI, CGMs have been empowered to fix flexible registration charges on special occasion, such as festivals etc.

- (c) New technologies like WILL, C-DOT TDMA/PMP and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

satellite based telephones have been planned to be inducted in rural telephone network to improve telephone services in the rural areas.

Tapping of Telephones

3137. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the tapping of telephones in some States and particularly in Orissa;
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the action taken against the persons involved in telephone tapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Monitoring of telephones is authorised under the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 which prescribe stringent procedure to be followed in such cases. Authorisation orders for interception of telephones are issued by the State Home Secretaries in respect of State Government and Union Home Secretary in respect of the Central Government- information regarding details of telephones monitored by the State Governments is not maintained by the Government of India. Ministry of Communications merely provides technical assistance in respect of orders issued as above. No case of illegal tapping of telephones has been reported.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Telephone facilities in UP

† 3138. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (d) whether it is a fact that a large part of the rural area in extensive State like Uttar Pradesh is still devoid of telephone facility;
- (e) if so, the scheme of Government to connect all villages with telephone facility and by when it will be completed; and
- (f) whether increase has been recorded at present in the 2102 number of rural telephone exchanges in the Eastern and Western

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